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Newspapers as indicated.

## EXTEND SOCIAL SECURITY COVERAGE; ORDER PRICE DECREASES

WILL COVER ARTISANS -- Tirana Bashkimi, 28 Feb 50

Tirana (Albanian Telegraph Agency) -- The Albanian government has issued an order extending social security to cover the members of artisans' cooperatives.

According to this order, members of artisans' cooperatives and their families are assured medical assistance from the social security funds contributed by the cooperative organization and the Social Care Administration.

Artisans' cooperatives will be required to contribute 15 percent of the remuneration they eccive for their work for medical care and social assistance for their members. On the basis of the funds accumulated from these contributions, a quota will be assigned in the national budget for the pensions granted by the state to members of artisans' cooperatives and their families.

Members of artisans' cooperatives are regarded as insured as of 1 January 1950. Accordingly, contributions and the expenditures authorized in the state budget are to begin as of that date.

PRICES LOWERED ON FREE, RATIONED MARKETS -- Tirana Bashkimi, 1 Apr 50

Tirana (Albania Telegraphic Agency) -- By a decision of 31 March 1950, the Council of Ministers has ordered lower prices on the free and rationed markets. The decision contains the following provisions:

In view of increased production of Albanian industry and further development of agriculture and stock raising, the following price reductions shall take effect 1 April 1950:

On the free market, the price of sugar shall be reduced 28.57 percent, macaroni 20 percent, beans 34 percent, cigarette paper 20 percent, cotton goods an average of 20 percent, silk goods an average of 28 percent, domestic liquors 10.22 percent, and other articles 30-40 percent.

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On the rationed market, the price of marmalade shall be reduced 20 percent and that of eggs 20 percent.

The new prices will increase the buying power of the workers by about 300 million lek in 1950.

The Ministries of Commerce and Finance are responsible for the execution of this decision. The Ministry of Finance shall see that the differences between the old and new prices are made up from the budget. The district executive committees are responsible for organizing the equitable application of this decision.

NEW SCHEDULE OF RATION POINTS -- Tirana Bashkimi, 9 Mar 50

In Decision No 123 of 2 March 1950, the Council of Ministers issued a new schedule of ration points for the purchase of industrial goods. Under this schedule, holders of A cards will receive 528 points, B cards 416 points, C cards 347 points, and D cards 192 points. Children up to 10 years old will receive 189 points. Holders of ordinary cards will receive 137 points. Pregnant women will receive 224 points. Shock workers will receive a bonus of 7 38 points. Foreigners of Grades I and II are entitled to 968 points. Foreigners of Grades III and IV will receive 623 points.

The Planning Commission is instructed to provide the stocks of goods for distribution under the point system, and the Ministry of Commerce is responsible for their equitable distribution.

This decision is effective as of the date of its publication in Bashkimi.

SCORES POOR QUALITY, WORKING CONDITIONS -- Tirana Puna, 4 Jul 50

Tirana -- At the third meeting of the second plenary session of the Professional Trade Union, held 30 June, the president, Gogo Nushi, made the following statements:

"Quality of production is one of the most essential conditions for the development of socialist competition. We cannot have competition with bad products; we cannot develop it with products such as those that come out of the rubber factory at Durres, the shoe factory at Tirana, and many other enterprises. We do not want such products. They do not improve the lives of the people, but waste materials and the labor of the workers for nothing.

"Winter is approaching, and measures ought to be taken to repair buildings and furrish them with the necessary equipment. Let there be no repetition of last year's conditions, when workers in many factories slept on stone floors covered only with their coats. Workers should be furnished with mattresses, blankets, and stoves in their dwellings. Last year in the lumber mill in Puke, for instance, stoves were not installed until March, when the hot weather begins."

HOSPITAL OPENED IN GJINOKASTER -- Tirana Bashkimi, 7 Jun 50

Gjinokaster (Albanian Telegraph Agency) -- During the last few days the State Hospital in Gjinokaster moved to its new building, which was completed at the end of 1949. The new hospital has a capacity of 210 beds, but will be enlarged in the future. The pediatric section consists of 14 rooms, the pathology section 15 rooms, the surgery section 26 rooms, and the contagious diseases section

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23 rooms. The hospital also has two surgical wards, two wards for radiotherapy, and a large ball. A number of rooms have been assigned to the pharmacy, personnel, etc

The new hospital is equipped with all modern hospital facilities, including X-ray equipment.

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